



Worlds of experience for your training

The Intercantonal Fire Service Training Centre is the largest in Switzerland with an area of 36 000 square metres. As a regionally leading institution, the Intercantonal Fire Service Training Centre offers realistic worlds of experience in which organisers can effectively and efficiently provide training services for firefighters.

Versatile training infrastructure

Two years after the foundation of the Intercantonal Fire Service Training Centre, the training ground was put into operation in 2000. Since then, the infrastructure has been continuously developed to meet the training needs of fire services even better. With the six-storey Firehouse Q in solid concrete construction as the last expansion step, for the time being, an ideal training location is now available to experience an operation from the alarm to the approach up to the completion, close to real operation. In the Firehouse Q, the lower three floors are equipped for solids fires. The three upper floors operate mobile gas fire scenes.

The training infrastructure also includes the four-storey Pyrodrom, the fire attack platform for preparing for operations with liquid fires, the Theme Park with flexible room situations, the flashover training facility, respiratory protection training facilities, a two-storey container facility for «Real Fire – Real Smoke» (RFRS), a rescue facade and various smaller training buildings.

Companies and organisations also use the fire extinguisher platform for initial phase intervention training, and the pioneer site offers a training area for civil protection with various stations. In addition, the training infrastructure of the International Fire Academy can be included, which includes two training tunnels for road and rail, a railway training area, a training car park and the Tactics Centre.

Training and services

The training offers of the Intercantonal Fire Service Training Centre have a modular structure. In training modules, the correct procedure for different fire incidents can be taught and practised in detailed lessons. Operation modules build on this, which usually consist of three operational drills. Basically, the difficulty level increases in all modules with each lesson or drill.



Firehouse Q with access routes (above) and a sequence from a module in the Pyrodrome





Training of a first response on the fire extinguisher platform and operational drills on the fire attack platform



The infrastructure is also used very intensively by external organisers. This applies to courses and training as well as to tests and development work. The Intercantonal Fire Service Training Centre provides technicians, supports with technical know-how and takes care in the background that everything runs smoothly. The services also include training counselling and course administration. Also, the classroom building, the canteen, common rooms and accommodation can be used.

Methodology and didactics

In its methodology and didactics, the Intercantonal Fire Service Training Centre is based on the methodology/didactics manual of the Swiss Fire Service Coordination for all modules.

With their detailed lessons, the training modules cover the training and consolidation phases. The operation modules cover the application phase. Each lesson stimulates self-reflection and mutual feedback. Variations in the training sequences and difficulties are intended to ensure that the necessary skills and abilities taught can be safely recalled even under stress.

Emergency services and civil organisations

Every year, around 10 000 participants take part in offers at the Intercantonal Fire Service Training Centre. This includes courses from third-party providers (including, for example, the Swiss Fire Service Association) or training courses for companies and associations for first response. Training is possible in small groups up to full organisation training.

A public company

The Intercantonal Fire Service Training Centre is a company, which is carried by the public Basel-Landschaft and the Solothurn building insurance. Together with Gasser Felstechnik AG, it operates the International Fire Academy, which specialises in handling (fire) operations in tunnels and other underground transport systems. Their training facilities are located in Balsthal and Lungern.

The Intercantonal Fire Service Training Centre employs 35 permanent employees. A total of around 100 part-time technicians and instructors are available for the courses.

Milestones of development

The Intercantonal Fire Service Training Centre was founded in 1998. In 2000, the training site was inaugurated. Since 2001, the official fire service courses of the Basel-Landschaft and the Solothurn building insurance have been held at the training facilities in Balsthal.

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